



State of Wisconsin • DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

2135 RIMROCK ROAD • P.O. BOX 8933 • MADISON, WISCONSIN 53708-8933 • 608-266-6466 • FAX (608) 266-5718
<http://www.revenue.wi.gov>

Scott Walker
Governor

Richard G. Chandler
Secretary of Revenue

For Immediate Release

January 26, 2011

CONTACT: Stephanie Marquis, 608-266-2300

E-File Your Tax Return: Get Your Refund Faster

Wisconsin Department of Revenue Launches Tax Filing Season

Today, the Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR) officially launches the start of the Wisconsin individual income tax season and Revenue officials are encouraging people to electronically file their returns. E-filing from DOR's secure, confidential website is free, secure and accurate.

"We want to make tax season as easy as possible and e-filing is a great way to go," says Secretary Richard G. Chandler. "When you e-file, you are sent a confirmation that we have received your return, plus you can get your refund in just days. You can file for free from our secure, confidential website, and the program does the math for you based upon the information you put on each line."

DOR expects about three million tax returns this year and more than 75% of those will be e-filed, making Wisconsin a national leader in e-filing.

Wisconsin e-file is available 24/7 at revenue.wi.gov so people can file any time. The program:

- Offers Wisconsin fill-in tax forms that perform the math to help prevent errors when you prepare the return.
- Is secure and confidential – your taxpayer information is protected.
- Sends a confirmation once a return is electronically submitted.
- Allows individuals to link to e-filing options for their federal income taxes by clicking on "web-based filing."

You also get your refund quickly when you e-file. People may receive their refund in their bank account within days when they use direct deposit. You can also use direct withdrawal if you need to pay taxes – simply electronically file now and choose a date to pay your taxes on or before April 18, 2011.

To begin e-filing, you will need:

- Your federal return.
- All documents about income you received during the year.
- Legal names and social security numbers of everyone you'll include on your return.
- Charitable donations.
- Property tax bill or rent certificate, if claiming homestead credit.
- Bank account information for direct deposit.

- MORE -

Below is additional information to help taxpayers throughout the filing season:

FILING DEADLINE CHANGE

The deadline to file your 2010 tax return is April 18, 2011. Although April 15th is the usual filing deadline, taxpayers will have three extra days to file and pay any tax due because the District of Columbia's Emancipation Day falls on April 15th. By law, District of Columbia holidays impact tax deadlines the same way as federal holidays.

IRS PROCESSING DELAY

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) is not accepting income tax returns itemizing deductions (with Schedule A) until February 14, 2011. The IRS needs additional time to update its systems to reflect recent federal law changes. The IRS delay does not impact DOR's ability to accept your Wisconsin return. Your e-file provider will attach a copy of the federal tax return to the Wisconsin return, and DOR will process it as normal.

FREE TAX ASSISTANCE

DOR has a variety of helpful videos on its website at revenue.wi.gov. We have both instructional and informational videos online to assist you with your tax filing questions.

If you need help preparing your taxes, call 211 to find a Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) or Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE) site in your area. VITA/TCE sites help low-to-moderate income residents, seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities prepare their tax returns for free.

The individuals who help prepare your tax return at the VITA site are trained volunteers. Taxpayers can get help with questions or e-filing their returns at more than 200 sites across the state found in community centers, libraries, churches, shopping malls and retirement homes. Most VITA sites will be open until the end of the tax season. Call 211 to find a VITA site in your area.

Please be sure to bring the documents below to the volunteer tax site:

- ✓ Photo IDs for you and your spouse.
- ✓ Social security numbers for everyone you will include on your tax return.
- ✓ All documents about the income you received during the year. (Examples: wage statements, interest and dividend statements, retirement statements, social security statements, mortgage interest statement.)
- ✓ Any tax documents you got in the mail.
- ✓ Signed rent certificate or property tax bill if you will file for Homestead Credit.
- ✓ Your bank account numbers to get refunds deposited into your account (example: deposit slip)
- ✓ Any other tax documents. (Examples: property tax receipts for any property taxes paid in 2010, tuition statement, closing agreement for home purchased in 2010.)

IMPORTANT NOTE: Your spouse must come with you if you are married and filing jointly.

DOR staff will be available to answer questions about state income tax returns and homestead credit claims at its regional offices and several public library branches listed below. Please note that income tax returns will not be prepared and no appointment is necessary.

DOR Offices and Assistance at Libraries

(People May Call 211 for Additional Free Tax Help Locations in Their Area)

County	Location	Address	Days	Hours
Brown	DOR Green Bay Office	200 N. Jefferson Street Room 526 Green Bay	Mon-Fri	7:45-4:30
Dane	DOR Madison Headquarters	2135 Rimrock Road Madison	Mon-Fri	7:45-4:30
Douglas	Superior Library	1530 Tower Avenue Superior	January 24 February 7 February 24 March 7 March 21 April 4 April 18	11:30-4:00
Eau Claire	DOR Eau Claire Office	718 W. Clairemont Avenue Eau Claire	Mon-Fri	7:45-4:30
Kenosha	Kenosha Library	7979 38 th Avenue Kenosha	January 24 February 7 February 22 March 7 March 21 April 4 April 18	9:30-2:30
Marathon	DOR Wausau Office	One Wausau Center 710 Third Street Wausau	Mon only	7:45-1:00
Milwaukee**	DOR Milwaukee Office	819 N. Sixth Street Room 408 Milwaukee	Mon-Fri	7:45-4:30
Outagamie	DOR Appleton Office	265 W. Northland Avenue Appleton	Mon-Fri	7:45-4:30
Rock	Janesville Library	316 South Main Street Janesville	January 24 February 7 February 22 March 7 March 21 April 4 April 18	9:00-2:30
St. Croix	Hudson Library	911 4th Street Hudson	January 24 February 7 February 22 March 7 March 21 April 4 April 18	10:00-2:30

** The DOR Milwaukee office located at 819 North Sixth Street – Room 408 has staff available to help answer questions or prepare your Homestead Credit return. Please note that staff will only be able to prepare Homestead Credit returns so they can continue to serve as many customers as possible. To make an appointment to have your Homestead Credit return prepared at the DOR Milwaukee office, please call 414.227.3887.

WHAT'S NEW FOR THE 2010 TAX SEASON

Below are some of the tax law changes that will impact filing your 2010 income tax return this year:

- **College Savings Programs:** A child does not have to be a dependent in order to deduct contributions to an EdVest or *tomorrow's scholar*® college savings account.
- **Wisconsin-Minnesota Reciprocity:** Minnesota and Wisconsin residents who work across each other's border may need to file tax returns in each state. You can claim credit for the taxes paid to the other state when filing your income tax return in your home state. Both Minnesota and Wisconsin residents can file their tax returns online. A list of the filing requirements and the forms to file are provided on DOR's website at http://www.revenue.wi.gov/news/20110120_01.pdf
- **Homestead Credit:** The household income limit has increased to \$24,680 and the dependent deduction has increased to \$500.
- **Form 1099-G available online:** You can access your Form 1099-G using DOR's secure, confidential website application. Form 1099-G information provides your annual refund information used on your itemized federal tax return. DOR is providing this information on our secure, confidential website to make it easier for you to look up information when you e-file your return. If you receive a Form 1099-G from DOR in the mail, you can sign up to go paperless next year right from our website. Click on *Form 1099-G* from our homepage under Individuals. You can enter your email address and DOR will alert you when the form is available online next year.
- **No Wisconsin estate tax for deaths in 2011 or 2012 :** A recent federal law change eliminated the credit for state death taxes for deaths in 2011 and 2012.

FREE STATE TAX FORMS AVAILABLE ONLINE IN SPANISH

Free state income tax forms are available in Spanish on the DOR website. The following state income tax forms are available in Spanish on the Department's website, along with a brief description of which form to use when filing:

Form	When to Use This Form for State Income Tax Filing
Form WI-Z	Single or married filing jointly No dependents (children) Taxable income is less than \$100,000
Form 1A	Single, married filing jointly or head of household Have dependents (children) to claim on tax return Any amount of income
Form H (Homestead Credit)	Age 18 or older Income less than \$24,500 Own or rent your home Full year resident of Wisconsin

To begin filing, have all of your tax documents ready, and go to the Department's homepage at revenue.wi.gov. Click on the *WI efile* logo, then select the *En Español* link to get to the forms listed above. A variety of other tax information is also available in Spanish by clicking on *En Español* from the menu on the left-hand side of the screen.

CHECK ON YOUR REFUND

You can check the status of your refund several easy ways:

1. **Website**

www.revenue.wi.gov

Click on *Check Your Refund* under Individuals

2. **By Telephone**

608-266-8100

Toll Free: 866-WIS-RFND (866-947-7363)

CUSTOMER SERVICE NUMBERS

DOR Customer Service

revenue.wi.gov

Individuals: (608) 266-2772

Businesses: (608) 266-2776

DOR Refund Inquiry

Madison: (608) 266-8100

Milwaukee: (414) 227-4907

Toll-free: (866) 947-7363

Internal Revenue Service (federal)

<http://www.irs.gov/>

1-800-829-1040

Locate Free Volunteer Income Tax Sites

Call 211 from anywhere in the state

- END -